

Please insert a new heading at ~~page 1, following line 1 and above line 2~~, to read as follows:

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

Please insert a new heading at ~~page 1, following line 5 and above line 6~~, to read as follows:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Please delete and replace the paragraph at ~~page 1, lines 6 to 16~~, to read as follows:

1004573-000001
B1

In order to prevent, or at least reduce to a minimum, the immune reaction of the human organism with respect to implanted organ parts which are foreign to the body, and in order to prolong the long term durability or service life of special biological implants, it is an already known measure to coat the surfaces of the implants with living cells before the implantation into the human organism. Ideally, homologous cells, i.e. the body's own cells, or cells identical thereto, are concerned in this context. In that regard, the coating of the implants can be carried out in an especially advantageous manner in an apparatus as is described in the German Patent 198 34 396 C1 and corresponding U. S. Patent 6,214,407.

Please insert a heading at ~~page 2, following line 6, and above line 7~~ to read as follows:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please delete and replace the paragraph at ~~page 3, lines 5 to 22,~~
to read as follows:

20478-02440
2

Therewith the invention has the advantage, that the elements that are to be connected with one another cannot be loosened or released from one another in an automatic or self-acting manner, also in connection with a pulsating internal pressure, as it exists in connection with the heart. By means of elastic seal edges, a sufficient seal to the inside and to the outside is ensured simultaneously. On the other hand, a loosening or releasing of the connection is also still possible after several years of installed use, as the case may be, with the aid of a specially fitted disassembly tool. Thereby it is possible to fabricate the adapter element as well as the receiver element of a sterilizable body-compatible synthetic material. Finally, the adapter element provided in the apparatus according to the invention has the advantage that it can, without problems, be coated with living cells, together with the organ part that is to be implanted, preferably a biological as well as artificial heart valve, in the apparatus described in the German Patent 198 34 396 C1 and the corresponding U. S. Patent 6,214,407.

Please insert a heading at ~~page 3, following line 22 and above~~
~~line 23,~~ to read as follows:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS